



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
342nd MILITARY POLICE BATTALION
261 EAST 19TH STREET, BLDG. 1000
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473-5600**

ATZT-DEL

JUL 19 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR The 342nd Military Police Battalion

SUBJECT: 342nd Military Police Battalion Command Policy #8 (Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents)

1. Motor Vehicle accidents remain the number one killer of Army personnel and family members. Whether deployed in combat, or back home off duty, motor vehicle accidents continue to cause us tremendous loss of work time, property damage, and lives. Driving during law enforcement type duties can be even more dangerous, and on duty MP accidents continue to plague our ranks. It is our mission as leaders to do all we can to prevent all motor vehicle accidents. All accidents are preventable!
2. The health and welfare of every Soldier, civilian employee and family member in this Command are my primary responsibility as your commander. It is also the responsibility of every leader and Soldier in this organization.
3. Everyday, members of this command are performing military police patrol activities on this installation. They drive to and from duty, and drive while on duty. As such, we must have a viable safety program that adequately addresses prevention of motor vehicle accidents.
4. I expect commanders to develop a safety program that provides training and guidance to our operators of Army Motor Vehicles (AMVs). This will enable them to safely transport personnel and equipment by motor vehicle with the least possible risk of having a traffic accident that results in either property damage or injuries. These safety programs must include the following safety procedures as a minimum:
 - a. Drivers will not drive an AMV for more than 10 continuous hours, nor will the combined duty period exceed 12 hours in any 24-hour period without at least 8 consecutive hours of rest.
 - b. If more than 10 hours is required to complete the mission, a qualified, licensed assistant driver will be assigned to each vehicle.
 - c. Drivers will take 15-minute rest breaks every 2 to 3 hours of driving, or every 100 to 150 miles, whichever comes first.
 - d. The use of headphones or earphones while driving AMVs is prohibited except when conditions and regulations dictate the need to wear hearing protection to prevent the loss of hearing.

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e. Drivers will not consume intoxicating beverages during the 8 hours prior to scheduled duty or during their normal duty shifts.

f. Drivers will not smoke, eat, or drink while the vehicle is in motion. **NOTE: On duty MPs will not eat, drink, smoke or use tobacco products while in a MP sedan.**

g. Fire extinguishers are required in all military police vehicles.

h. Sleeping in parked vehicles with the engine running or heater running is prohibited. If MPs on duty are tired, I expect them to either get out and walk or come to the MP station to take a break or even rest if necessary.

i. All personnel riding or operating an AMV will wear safety belts when sitting in seats in which the safety belts have been installed by the manufacturer whether on or off the installation.

j. All trailers operated on or off the installation will be equipped with safety chains to prevent breakaway trailer accidents.

k. All AMVs operating over public roads will be equipped with highway warning kits.

l. All tactical vehicles will be equipped with and use chock blocks when parked on inclines or when maintenance is being performed.

m. Drivers of tactical wheeled vehicles will use at least one ground guide when backing up their vehicle, however two ground guides will be used when vision is restricted. Operators of M1026/M1026/M1114 HMMWVs will open the rear cargo shell door before backing the vehicle to give the operator the best possible visibility to the rear.

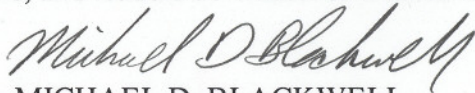
5. Additional safety requirements and considerations that must be included in unit level safety programs are found in AR 385-10, AR 385-55, AR 600-55, TB Med 501, FM 21-305, FM 55-312 and the applicable TMs for the wheeled vehicles and equipment in the command.

6. Personnel who damage military vehicles through personal negligence, will be subject to disciplinary action, and will also be subject to being held pecuniary liable for any damages that occur as a result.

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7. Remember: All accidents are preventable, and leaders do whatever it takes to ensure that they are!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael D. Blackwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Blackwell" clearly legible.

MICHAEL D. BLACKWELL

LTC, MP

Commanding